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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/650,444	08/28/2003	Hiroko Mano	RCOH-1065	6735

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EXAMINER	
TIMBLIN, ROBERT M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2167	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
11/14/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/650,444	MANO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Robert M. Timblin	2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *05 September 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *15-18,37-40 and 59-62* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *15-18, 37-40, and 59-62* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to application 10/650,444 filed 8/28/2003.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/5/2007 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

Applicant amends claims 15-18, 37-40, and 59-62 are pending.

Claim Objections

Claim 15, 37, and 39 are objected to because of the following informalities:
In the line starting with "manner...", it should read "...occurring *in* one of the...".
Also, in the line after, it should read "...less occurring in the other *one* of the first text database..." as to grammatically correct the sentence.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 18, 40, and 62 recites the limitations "the corresponding predetermined word weight" and "the predetermined text database" in the claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations of the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 15-18, 37-40, and 59-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being taught by over Dehlinger et al. ('Dehlinger' hereinafter) (U.S. Patent Application 2004/0006558 A1). In the following, Dehlinger teaches:

With respect to claim 15, Dehlinger teaches A method of processing text data according to claim 1 further comprising additional the steps of:

inputting word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) for search words (0021, i.e. descriptive search terms and figure 9);

determining a first text database occurrence value (0162, figure 9, 132) of the word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) in a first text database (figure 9, i.e. library I);

determining a second text database occurrence value (figure 9, 134) of the word candidates in a second text database (0162, figure 9, i.e. other libraries I), the first text database containing certain vocabulary and sentences written in a certain style that are substantially different from those in the second text database (0074; i.e. Dehlinger teaches searching libraries of differing styles (i.e. libraries (i)-(iii));

determining a database occurrence value (figure 9, 136) based upon the first text database occurrence value (0162, figure 9, 132) and the second text database occurrence value (figure 9, 134) in a predetermined manner so that the word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) substantially more occurring one of the first text database and the second text database but substantially less occurring in the other of the first text database and the second text database are avoided in the search words (0163; i.e. each word in the descriptive word database is associated with a selectivity value corresponding to the highest selectivity value among the N libraries);

selecting the search words from the word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) based upon in part the database occurrence value (0009; i.e. selecting a word based on an above-threshold selectivity value); and

extracting sentences from the other one of the first text database (figure 9, library I) and the second text (figure 9, Libraries I) database based upon the selected search words (0095, 0157; i.e. extracting content from natural language texts).

With respect to claim 16 and similar claims 17, 38, 39, 60, and 61, Dehlinger teaches (0010) the method of processing text data according to claim 15 wherein the database occurrence value is determined by a following equation:

the database occurrence value = (the second text database occurrence value / a total number of sentences in the second text database) - (the first text database occurrence value / a total number of sentences in the first text database).

That is, Dehlinger teaches finding the frequency of each word in a library to describe the above formula.

With respect to claim 18 and similar claims 40 and 62, Dehlinger teaches (0009) the method of processing text data according to claim 15 further comprising an additional step of determining a search word significance value based upon a following equation:

the search word significance value =

the corresponding predetermined word weight X the database occurrence value,

wherein the corresponding predetermined word weight is log (a total number of sentences/ a number of occurrences of the word candidate in an entire portion of the predetermined text database).

That is, Dehlinger describes the above formula with respect to comparing a selectivity value to a threshold to determine the descriptiveness (i.e. significance) of a search term.

With respect to claim 37, A storage medium containing a computer program for processing text data performing the additional tasks of:

inputting word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) for search words (0021, i.e. descriptive search terms and figure 9);

determining a first text database occurrence value (0162, figure 9, 132) of the word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) in a first text database (figure 9, i.e. library I);

determining a second text database occurrence value (figure 9, 134) of the word candidates in a second text database (0162, figure 9, i.e. other libraries I), the first text database containing certain vocabulary and sentences written in a certain style that are substantially different from those in the second text database (0074; i.e. Dehlinger teaches searching libraries of differing styles (i.e. libraries (i)-(iii));

determining a database occurrence value (figure 9, 136) based upon the first text database occurrence value (0162, figure 9, 132) and the second text database occurrence value (figure 9, 134) in a predetermined manner so that the word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) substantially more occurring one of the first text database and the second text database but substantially less occurring in the other of the first text database and the second text database are avoided in the search words (0163; i.e. each word in the descriptive word database is

associated with a selectivity value corresponding to the highest selectivity value among the N libraries);

selecting the search words from the word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) based upon in part the database occurrence value (0009; i.e. selecting a word based on an above-threshold selectivity value); and

extracting sentences from the other one of the first text database (figure 9, library I) and the second text (figure 9, Libraries I) database based upon the selected search words (0095, 0157; i.e. extracting content from natural language texts).

With respect to claim 59, An apparatus for processing text data comprising:

an input unit (0070; input device) for inputting word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) for search words (0021, i.e. descriptive search terms and figure 9);

a database occurrence determination unit (figure 9, module D) connected to said input unit (0070; input device) determining a first text database occurrence value (0162, figure 9, 132) of the word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) in a first text database (figure 9, i.e. library I) and a second text database occurrence value (figure 9, 134) of the word candidates in a second text database (0162, figure 9, i.e. other libraries I), the first text database containing certain vocabulary and sentences written in a certain style that are substantially different from those in the second text database (0074; i.e. Dehlinger teaches searching libraries of differing styles (i.e. libraries (i)-(iii)), said database occurrence determination unit further (figure 9, module D) determining a database occurrence value (figure 9, 136) based upon the

first text database occurrence value (0162, figure 9, 132) and the second text database occurrence value (figure 9, 134) in a predetermined manner so that the word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) substantially more occurring one of the first text database but substantially less occurring in the other of the first text database and the second text database are avoided in the search words (0163; i.e. each word in the descriptive word database is associated with a selectivity value corresponding to the highest selectivity value among the N libraries);

a search word selection unit (figure 10, Module E) connected to said database occurrence determination unit (figure 9, module D) for selecting the search words from the word candidates (0014; i.e. input text and figure 9, drawing reference 126) based upon in part the database occurrence value (0009; i.e. selecting a word based on an above-threshold selectivity value); and

a text selection unit (0083; i.e. identifying SIDs (sentence identifiers) connected to said search word selection unit for extracting sentences from the other one of the first text database (figure 9, library I) and the second text (figure 9, Libraries I) database based upon the selected search words (0095, 0157; i.e. extracting content from natural language texts).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments in the remarks filed 9/5/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues on page 12, first paragraph of the remarks that Dehlinger does not disclose forming appropriate search words for cross-database searches. In particular, Applicant is unclear on the relationship between the search input and the database to be searched. The Examiner disagrees because Dehlinger does teach a relationship between the search input and the database to be searched.

Specifically, Dehlinger teaches forming a database of descriptive words that is generated from input text (i.e. figure 9). The descriptive words are given a selectivity value which is based upon their occurrence in each library. That is, Dehlinger teaches a selectivity value corresponding to the highest selectivity value among the N libraries. It is respectfully submitted that the word with the highest selectivity value (among the libraries) would be chosen for a search. In paragraph 0164, Dehlinger also teaches determining a selectivity value is selected for differing classes (i.e. libraries) of text. Furthermore, the selectivity values are library-specific (0169) to also describe a relationship between the search input and a database to be searched.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert M. Timblin whose telephone number is 571-272-5627. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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